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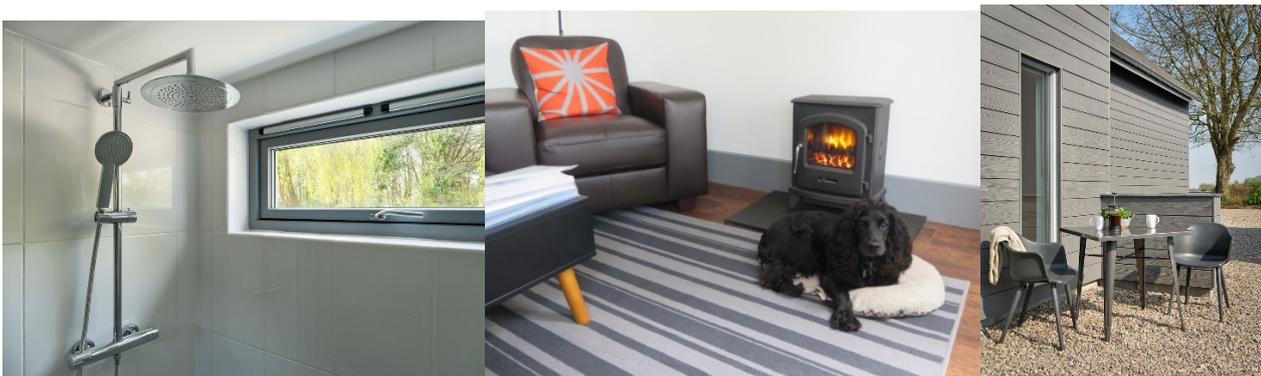
First of all – thank you so much for replying to my last Newsletter; and for all your lovely messages and wishes of good luck with the build. I am so sorry not to get back to you individually, but was overwhelmed by the number of replies.

Symonds Yat Rock Lodge News:

The new apartments are finished, open, busy and lovely! We tested them out before we opened and would happily move in. You have probably seen the photos on the website, but here is a quick summary:



We are so pleased with how stylish the guttering is (the things you can get excited about!) and the great views, especially from the shower. And they are all ready for cosy evenings after autumn walks with the stoves in the living rooms (as demonstrated by Daisy).



Events:

- Heritage Open Days – all FREE:

- Visit the Secret Forest – 14 Sept 10-4pm
- Littledean Hall Roman site – 15 to 16 Sept (this is very rarely open to the public, on the Sunday you can add in a tour of haunted Brayne Court)
- Tree historian gives tour of Cyril Hart Arboretum – 16 Sept at 10:30 am.

- Brockweir Soapbox Derby – 15 Sept. Looks thoroughly dangerous.

- Life, Lines and Illusions: exhibition by artist, zoologist and camouflage expert at Nature in Art – 25 Sept to 21 Oct

- Watercolour workshop at Creates Gallery – 3 Oct

- Anton du Beke at The Savoy – 7 Oct

- Forest Food Showcase at Speech House – 7 Oct. An annual celebration of our great local produce.
- 30th Anniversary of The Big Apple - 13 to 14 Oct. Harvest time at Much Marcle.
- Oktoberfest Saturday: jump racing at Chepstow Racecourse plus the festival tent – 13 Oct
- Weave a Willow Reindeer at Humble by Nature – 23 Nov
- The Faddle Fair – 1 Dec. The successful mix of food, crafts and music continues in Coleford.
- Santa Specials trains – 8 to 24 Dec. Dean Forest Railways.



Nature:

Beaver Walk this weekend. 15 September at 2:30 as part of Heritage Open Days. Your chance to see the new pair of beavers in Lydbrook (released on 24 July, 400 years after going extinct). This is the male beaver on the big day:



The move to reintroduce pine martens to the Forest of Dean was announced. All relevant bodies and the public supported the move. The work is ongoing on funding the project and assessing any disease and other risks before final agreement. Fingers crossed!

Activities News:

- 20% off bike hire at Dean Forest Cycles
- 10% off at Go Ape!

We have vouchers for our guests.

A giant stand-up paddle board has been launched by Inspire2adventure. You can get eight people on it!

Filming News:

- The Spanish Princess (a follow on from The White Princess) at Gloucester Cathedral.
- Puzzlewood was closed in June and is closed again right now – still have not managed to find out what is being shot.

Dog Friendly:

We now have a proper cleaning area for dogs and bikes, plus the 'dog cupboard' (with towels, blankets, bowls etc). I have updated our list of attractions and activities to show the dog friendly ones. There are loads – so do bring your best friend on your hols - and include:

- A brewery tour at Hillside Brewery
- Taurus Crafts
- Canoeing
- Dick Whittington Farm Park
- Goodrich, Chepstow, Raglan and other castles
- Kingfisher Cruises on the River Wye
- Dean Forest Railway
- Tintern Abbey

Please post any photos or experiences on our [facebook](#) site, and do put us on [Tripadvisor](#) if you enjoyed your stay with us.